

ELIZABETH D. PITTMAN.

---

MAY 16, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 5746.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5746) granting a pension to Elizabeth D. Pittman, have examined the same and all the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill as amended proposes to pension, at \$12 per month, Elizabeth D. Pittman, of Plymouth, Ill., the mother of William E. Potter, late private, Company K, Nineteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, who served from June 17, 1861, to July 19, 1864, and was honorably discharged. The records show him to have been treated while in the service for varioloid.

He filed a claim December 21, 1881, under the general law, based on typhoid fever, measles, rheumatism, disease of heart, partial dropsy, disease of head, and apoplexy. He furnished the testimony of comrades as to fever, measles, resulting in abscesses in the head, and as to existence, at time of filing testimony, of rheumatism, partial deafness, heart disease, and threatened apoplexy, believed to be results; but claim was rejected in May, 1888, on the ground of claimant's failure, after a reasonable time and due notice, to furnish the necessary evidence to establish it.

He filed and established a claim under the act of June 27, 1890, for rheumatism and disease of stomach, heart, and liver, and was pensioned for the same under said act at \$12 per month from July 19, 1890, until his death, in February, 1897.

There is no provision of the general pension laws under which a dependent mother may be pensioned unless her soldier son's death is shown to have been due to his service. That evidently can not be legally shown in this case, but it is shown that the soldier died leaving neither widow nor minor child, and that his mother is 90 years old, almost blind, and very feeble, and has no income or means of support except that afforded her by a granddaughter.

If this claim were admissible at the Pension Office the rate would be \$12 per month.

Your committee is of the opinion that an old patriotic mother who gave her only son to her country in its time of need should not be left in danger of the poorhouse when deprived of the aid such son would give her if living. The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 7, after the word "Infantry," insert the words "and pay her a pension."

In line 8 strike out the word "twenty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twelve."

Strike out all after the word "month" in line 8.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to Elizabeth D. Pittman."

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *Hancock County*, ss:

This day personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for said county and State, S. H. Aldridge, George B. McLelland, and Joseph A. Currens, citizens of the village of Plymouth, county of Hancock, State of Illinois, who, being first duly sworn, upon their oaths depose and say that they were well acquainted with William E. Potter, late of Company K, Nineteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and that he drew a pension on certificate No. 769510, and that he died in said village of Plymouth on the 10th day of November, 1896; that he left surviving him his widowed mother, Elizabeth D. Pittman, who is now 89 years old; that he, the said William E. Potter, was, and has been for the last ten years, her sole and only support, and that she, the said Elizabeth D. Pittman, is now absolutely without means of support except through charity; that her health is fair considering her age, but she is almost blind and quite feeble.

S. H. ALDRIDGE.

GEORGE B. MCLELLAND.

JOSEPH A. CURRENS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, at Plymouth, Ill., this 20th day of April, 1897.

[SEAL.]

S. C. GILBERT, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Hancock*, ss:

In the matter of the application for pension of Elizabeth D. Pittman, dependent mother of William E. Potter, late of Company K, Nineteenth Regiment Illinois Infantry.

On this 7th day of April, A. D. 1898, personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, S. H. Aldridge, aged 40 years, a resident of Plymouth, in the county of Hancock and State of Illinois, whose post-office address is Plymouth, Ill., and George B. McLelland, aged 36 years, a resident of Plymouth, in the county of Hancock and State of Illinois, whose post-office address is Plymouth, Ill., well known to me to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declare in relation to the aforesaid case as follows:

That they have been well and personally acquainted with William E. Potter and Elizabeth Pittman, his mother, for nine years and ten years, respectively, and that the soldier, William E. Potter, died, leaving no widow or minor children. His mother at the time of his death was dependent upon him for her support. Since his death she has subsisted by the kindness of her neighbors and the help and care of her granddaughter. The old lady is 90 years old, is infirm and so blind that she can only just distinguish day from night, and requires someone to be with or near her at all times. Her granddaughter is financially unable to support her, as she has no means except her and her husband's earnings, and if it was not for the contributions of the citizens of this village the old lady would be in the poorhouse.

They further declare that they have no interest in said case, and are not concerned in its prosecution.

S. H. ALDRIDGE, *P. M.*

GEO. B. MCLELLAND.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Hancock, ss:*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiants, and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiants and acquainted them with its contents before they executed the same. I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution, and that said affiants are personally known to me, and that they are credible persons.

[SEAL.]

S. C. GILBERT, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Hancock, ss:*

In the matter of the application for pension of Mrs. Elizabeth D. Pittman, dependent mother of William E. Potter, late of Company K, Nineteenth Regiment Illinois Infantry.

On this 7th day of April, A. D. 1898, personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, Isaac H. Bodenhamer, aged 53 years, a resident of Plymouth, in the county of Hancock and State of Illinois, whose post-office address is Plymouth, Ill., and C. E. Grafton, aged 30 years, a resident of Plymouth, in the county of Hancock and State of Illinois, whose post-office address is Plymouth, Ill., well known to me to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declare in relation to the aforesaid case as follows:

That they have been well and personally acquainted with Mrs. Elizabeth D. Pittman for twelve years, respectively, and that they were also well acquainted with her son William E. Potter for twenty years and seventeen years, respectively. Twelve years ago her son William E. Potter brought her to his home in this village and introduced her as his mother, and cared for and nursed the old lady, calling her mother until his death, and his daughter has continued to furnish a home for her since his demise. We were near neighbors of them ever since she came here twelve years ago to live with him, and although we have no record to show that he was her son, we are satisfied that the claimant, Elizabeth D. Pittman, is the mother of William E. Potter, and we know that during the time mentioned he was her only support.

They further declare that they have no interest in said case and are not concerned in its prosecution.

ISAAC H. BODENHAMER.  
C. E. GRAFTON.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Hancock, ss:*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiants, and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiants and acquainted them with its contents before they executed the same. I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution, and that said affiants are personally known to me, and that they are credible persons.

[SEAL.]

S. C. GILBERT, *Notary Public.*

○

